

REMARKS

Claims 1-37, as amended, are pending and under active consideration in this application. Claims 1, 32 and 34 have been amended to further define the inventions recited therein. Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the technician may not need to make changes to the preliminary treatment plan. This feature is supported by the application and existing claims (e.g., prior claim 32). Claims 32 and 34 have been amended to clearly cover different embodiments, such as when the preliminary treatment plan is forwarded to the dental technician for evaluation and, if necessary, modification (claim 32), and when the plan is modified by the technician prior to return to the dentist (claim 34). As no new matter is being entered by any of these changes, they all should be entered at this time.

Another information disclosure statement is submitted herewith for the Examiner's review and consideration. Certain newly cited references are enclosed. Primarily, these are articles on a SmileVision system that was discussed in articles prior to the earliest filing date for the present application.

The present claims are patentable over the cited articles. Specifically, claims 1, 10, 11 and 32 recites the step of forwarding an electronic image of the patient's tooth to a dental laboratory for evaluation by a technician who evaluates the image and, if necessary, suggests restorative options to the dentist. This feature is not taught or disclosed by the cited articles. Furthermore, claim 18 recites that a preliminary treatment plan that includes an enhanced digitized image as well as text is transmitted to a dental restoration laboratory so that a dental technician and the dentist simultaneously have access to the enhanced digital image. This allows the parties to discuss what proper treatment(s) should be included in the final plan. This feature is also absent from the cited references.

Accordingly, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, early notice of which would be appreciated.

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Date

Respectfully submitted,

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